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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,786	12/30/2003	Darrell R. Finneman	D/A3506 XERZ 2 00671	1093
27885	7590	09/27/2006	EXAMINER	
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP 1100 SUPERIOR AVENUE, SEVENTH FLOOR CLEVELAND, OH 44114			BUI, HUNG S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/749,786	FINNEMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hung S. Bui	2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-17 and 19-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-9, 12-17 and 19-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of claims 12-13 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Dienst [US 6,225,566]. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dienst [US 6,225,566].

Regarding claim 1, Dienst discloses a support member (figure 3), comprising:

- a support panel (42, figure 6);
- a retention element (20) for use in mounting an associated component (40) to the support panel, the retention element defining a bore (32) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (48) which mounts the component to the support panel and a protrusion (56) which extends into the bore from a sidewall thereof (figure 7).
- the protrusion including a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the bore (figure 8).

Regarding claim 2, Dienst discloses wherein the retention element includes a boss which extends from the support panel (figure 6).

Regarding claim 3, Dienst discloses wherein the boss is formed from plastic (abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 12, 15-17, 19-21, 23 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartos et al. [US 5,704,750] in view of Dienst [US 6,225,566].

Regarding claims 1, 6-7, 15, 19, Bartos et al. disclose a support member (figure 3), comprising:

- a support panel (figure 3);
- a retention element (24) for use in mounting an associated component (28) to the support panel, the retention element defining a bore (figure 3) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (10) which mounts the component to the support panel and a protrusion which extends into the bore from a sidewall thereof (figure 3); and

- The bore including a first portion located adjacent to a fixing element receiving opening of the bore and a second portion, spaced from the opening, wherein the second portion having a smaller diameter than the first portions (figure 3).

Bartos et al. disclose instant claimed invention except for the protrusion including a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the bore.

Dienst discloses a support member having a retention element defining a bore (figures 6-7) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (48), wherein the bore includes protrusions (56, figure 7) which extends from the inner wall of the bore, wherein the protrusion includes a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis (58, figures 7-8) of the bore.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the rib design of Dienst in Bartos et al., for the purpose of providing more friction when the fixing element inserts/removes from the bore.

Regarding claim 2, Bartos et al., as modified, further disclose wherein the retention element being formed of a boss that extends from the support panel (figure 3).

Regarding claim 3, Bartos et al., as modified, disclose the boss being formed of plastic (see abstract).

Regarding claim 4, Bartos et al., as modified, disclose wherein the bore includes a first portion located adjacent to a fixing element receiving opening of the bore and a second portion, spaced from the opening, the second portion having a smaller diameter than the first portion (figure 3).

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Regarding claim 12, Bartos et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for wherein the protrusion subtends an angle from a longitudinal axis of the bore of at least 10 degrees.

Dienst discloses wherein the protrusion subtends an angle from a longitudinal axis of the bore of at least 10 degrees (figure 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the protrusion design of Dienst in Bartos et al., for the purpose of providing resilient fit about the shaft of the screw.

Regarding claims 16 and 23, Bartos et al., as modified, disclose a combination of a retention element and a fixing element (figure 3) comprising:

- a retention element (24) which defines a bore and a projection which extends into the bore; and
- a threaded fixing element (22) which is received by the bore and which is capable of forming a helical groove in the bore, the projection engaging a threaded portion of the fixing element as the threaded fixing element is threadably engaged with the groove.

Bartos et al. disclose instant claimed invention except for the protrusion including a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the bore.

Dienst discloses a support member having a retention element defining a bore (figures 6-7) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (48), wherein the bore includes protrusions (56, figure 7) which extends from the inner wall of the bore,

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wherein the protrusion includes a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis (58, figures 7-8) of the bore.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the rib design of Dienst in Bartos et al., for the purpose of providing more friction when the fixing element inserts/removes from the bore.

Regarding claim 17, Bartos et al., as modified, further disclose wherein the fixing member comprises a screw (figure 3).

Regarding claim 20, Bartos et al., as modified, disclose wherein the imaginary circle having a diameter which is less than a maximum diameter of the screw (figure 3).

Regarding claim 21, Bartos et al. disclose wherein the imaginary circle having a diameter which is about that of the minimum diameter of the screw (figure 3).

Regarding claim 29, Bartos et al. disclose the retention element being integrally formed with the support panel.

Bartos et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the apparatus having a plurality of retention means.

Dienst discloses the panel having a plurality of retentions means being mounted thereon (figure 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a plurality of retentions means in the support panel of Bartos et al., as suggested by Dienst, in order to mount a plurality of components thereon the support panel.

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6. Claims 8-9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartos et al. in view of Dienst and Orban [US 4,535,656].

Regarding claim 8, Bartos et al. disclose a support member (figure 3), comprising:

- a support panel (figure 3);
- a retention element (24) for use in mounting an associated component (28) to the support panel, the retention element defining a bore (figure 3) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (10) which mounts the component to the support panel and a protrusion which extends into the bore from a sidewall thereof (figure 3).
- The bore including a first portion located adjacent to a fixing element receiving opening of the bore and a second portion, spaced from the opening, wherein the second portion having a smaller diameter than the first portions (figure 3).

Bartos et al. disclose instant claimed invention except for the protrusion including a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the bore and wherein the protrusion including an outer surface which defines an arc of an imaginary circle which is concentric with the bore.

Dienst discloses a support member having a retention element defining a bore (figures 6-7) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (48), wherein the bore includes protrusions (56, figure 7) which extends from the inner wall of the bore,

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wherein the protrusion includes a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis (58, figures 7-8) of the bore.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the rib design of Dienst in Bartos et al., for the purpose of providing more friction when the fixing element inserts/removes from the bore.

Orban discloses a support member having a retention element defining a bore (figures 2 and 4) for receiving an associated threaded fixing element (14), wherein the bore includes first and second protrusions (22) which extends from the inner wall of the bore, wherein the protrusion includes a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis (30, figure 2) of the bore and wherein the protrusion including an outer surface which defines an arc of an imaginary circle which is concentric with the bore (figure 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the rib design of Orban in Bartos et al., as modified, for the purpose of providing more friction when the fixing element inserts/removes from the bore.

Regarding claim 9, Bartos et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the protrusion including first and second side surfaces.

Dienst discloses the protrusion including first and second side surfaces which connect the outer surface of the protrusion with a side wall of the bore (figure 4).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the protrusion design of Dienst in Bartos et al., for the purpose of providing rigidity of the bore.

Regarding claim 13, Bartos et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for wherein the protrusion subtends and angle from the longitudinal axis of the bore of less than 30 degrees.

Dienst discloses wherein the protrusion subtends and angle from the longitudinal axis of the bore of less than 30 degrees (figures 7-8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the protrusion design of Dienst in Bartos et al., for the purpose of providing resilient fit about the shaft of the screw.

7. Claims 14, 22 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartos et al., as modified, as applied to claims 1, 8, 23 and 25 above, and further in view of Slater [US 4,580,689].

Regarding claims 14, 22 and 27-28, Bartos et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the support member comprising a chassis of an imaging device.

Slater discloses a support member (18) being used within a chassis of an imaging device (figures 2-3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the support member with a chassis of Bartos et al., as

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modified, as suggested by Slater, in order to secure component with the panel through a support member, wherein the protrusion subtends an angle from a longitudinal axis of the bore of at least 10 degree to 30 degree.

Regarding claim 24, Bartos et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for a chassis which including a plurality of the retention elements.

Slater discloses a chassis (10) having a plurality of the retention elements (18), a plurality of the fixing members (12) and at least one component (16) which is clamped to the chassis with the fixing elements and the retention elements (figures 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the plurality of retention members with a chassis of Bartos et al., as modified, as suggested by Slater, for the purpose of closing chassis with base/cap/cover and further to protect components therein the chassis.

Regarding claims 25-26, the claimed method steps are inherit in the product structure.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The cited references in combination with the prior art of record fail to teach or

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suggest the protrusion having first and second side surfaces extending from an inner of the bore being tapered toward an end of the bore.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

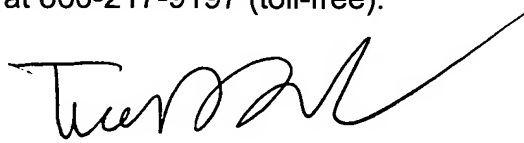
Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

9/20/06
Hung Bui
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9-21-06